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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANACORTES – The Port of Anacortes Commission voted unanimously to authorize Executive Director Bob Hyde to execute a lease agreement with the Northwest Career and Technical Academy (NCTA) for a portion of the Port’s Parcel 1 property during their regular meeting of August 6, 2009. The NCTA, also known as the “Marine Skills Center” will provide technical training for students pursuing an education in the marine trades.

In voting to approve the authorization, members of the Commission described the expanded benefits that classes on fabrication and other technical skills could carry over into non-marine trades. Other public benefits derived from the Skills Center will include parking and a conference center facility. Commissioners sited the swell of public support for the NCTA; leading to its inclusion in the Port’s adopted 2008 Comprehensive Plan. The Center signed an option agreement with the Port in May of 2008 for a portion of Parcel 1, ideally situated on “Q” Avenue near the Cap Sante Boat Haven and within blocks of marine industry and repair businesses and facilities.

The LaConner School District is acting as financial agent for the NCTA which is moving forward with plans for the campus, and will accept bids for the project later this month. Dr. Tim Bruce, Superintendent of Schools for the LaConner School District expressed his appreciation to the Port Commission and Executive Director Bob Hyde, as well as the consortium of school districts, Skagit Valley College, and especially State Representative Dave Quall, for their support of the Skills Center.

The NCTA Skills Center is expected to provide training for up to 120 high school, college, and adult students. The anticipated opening of the Center is fall of 2010.



About the Port of Anacortes

The Port of Anacortes was formed in 1926 to promote economic development for Anacortes and the surrounding area. The Port district is led by a board of five elected commissioners: Keith Rubin, Pat D. Mooney, Ray Niver, Steve Hopley, and Bill Short. Public meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Commission Meeting Room of the Main Port Warehouse, 1st & Commercial Avenue, Anacortes, WA. For more information, visit www.portofanacortes.com or contact Julie Johnson Lindsey, Administrative Coordinator, julie@portofanacortes.com